

Community Project Funding Information Guide

Rep. Adam Smith (WA-09)

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OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING PROCESS

In Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 24), the House Appropriations Committee will again accept Community Project Funding (CPF) requests to allow Members of Congress to target federal funds towards projects and programs that will benefit the communities they represent. These requests will be funded through the numerous government funding bills.

Deadline: All Community Project Funding requests must be submitted by **Sunday, March 12.**
Link to application: <https://forms.gle/dgrHFjWLvR91zuTZA>.

Please fill out the form to the best of your ability. Do not worry, if we think there is an error in the application or if we need clarifying information, we will contact you.

If you have additional documents or supplemental information, you can provide those to us over email. Contact information is included in the application form.

Eligibility: There are several significant changes to eligibility and restrictions for projects in FY 24 so please be sure to **read the Eligible Account information at the bottom of this guide carefully.**

The House Appropriations Committee is no longer accepting CPFs under the following subcommittees: Labor-HHS-Education, Financial Services and General Government (SBA), and Defense. Several other subcommittees also had substantial changes to eligible accounts and criteria.

For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for CPF. Only State, local and tribal governments; publicly owned entities (e.g. ports, universities, Public Utility Districts, etc.); and non-profit entities (must be a 501(c)(3); non-profit eligibility may vary depending on the program) are eligible.

Community Support: It is important that any request you make satisfies **every** requirement laid out by the House Appropriations Committee. Most importantly, each request must include demonstrated community support. If selected, you will be required to submit evidence of community support, including (but not limited to):

- Letters of support from elected community leaders
- Press articles highlighting the need for the specific project

- Resolutions passed by local/county/state governments
- Projects listed on community development plans, state intended use plans, and other publicly available planning documents
- Support from local newspaper editorial boards, etc.

Multiple requests: Entities are allowed to submit multiple projects to our office. Please fill out a separate application for each project.

Request amounts: It depends on the account from which you are requesting funds. You can look at previous years projects to see what level of funding projects have received, however, it is highly likely that projects will receive less funding this year due to new restrictions from the House Appropriations Committee.

You should not request more funds than you need or that can be realistically spent in the Fiscal Year for which you receive the funds. While you should request the amount that can be expended in the upcoming Fiscal Year that you need, please remember that projects are rarely funded fully due to budgetary restraints. We often ask if projects can take less money than they request and still use the funds/complete the project so please be prepared to answer that question.

Federal Requirements: Projects that are selected and ultimately funded will have to comply with applicable laws and requirements that come with federal funding, such as environmental reviews. These requirements will vary based on what the project is and from what account funding is received. If you are submitting a project for construction, renovation, or acquisition of property, you will almost assuredly have to complete an environmental review process. It is critical that you understand and are comfortable with complying with the federal requirements.

Transparency: In the interest of transparency, all members of Congress are required to post the Community Project Funding requests submitted to the committee on their website. The posting will include the name of the proposed recipient, the address, the amount of the request, and an explanation of the purpose and justification for the use of taxpayer funds.

As you prepare your requests, please keep in mind that our office will receive far more Community Project Funding requests than can be fulfilled. As a result, many deserving, appropriate, and eligible projects will not be provided federal assistance in Fiscal Year 2024. That is why it is extremely important that every project and requestor pursue other grant and federal/state/local funding opportunities where available. We are here to help you secure this important funding. Additional grant resources are [available here](#).

Thank you again for your interest in this year's Community Project Funding process. We are available to answer your questions as needed. I look forward to working with you to bring needed federal resources to Washington's Ninth Congressional District.

If you have any questions that are not covered by this information or the FAQ below, please contact Connor Stubbs (connor.stubbs@mail.house.gov).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Community Project Funding?

Community Project Funding is generally defined as spending provisions in federal legislation that:

- Are requested on behalf of constituents or constituent organizations by a Member of Congress or Senator;
- Provides, authorizes, or recommends a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or specific funding amount to a specific entity for a specific purpose; and,
- The purpose of the project must meet the objective of a federal program under existing law.

Community Project Funding is typically requested for projects with a clear purpose and goal above and beyond normal operating activities, for which private, non-federal funding is not available or sufficient. Community Project Funding will typically only serve as a partial contribution to the total cost of a project.

Is there a deadline for submitting a request?

Yes. The deadline to submit a Community Project Funding request for our office is Sunday, March 12.

What if I miss a deadline? Are any exceptions made if the bill hasn't been passed?

Congressional offices review numerous requests in a short amount of time. As a result, deadlines are strictly enforced. Once our office submits requests to the House Appropriations Committee, we are unable to change or add requests. That is why it's important to submit your request before the deadline.

Are Community Project Funding requests publicly disclosed?

Yes. All requests for Community Project Funding submitted by the Member to the committee for consideration must be publicly listed on that Member's website, including the name and address of the requestor, the amount requested, and the justification for use of taxpayer funds.

Are there limitations on what Community Project Funding can be used for?

Yes. Federal programs have very specific restrictions on how federal funds can be used. It is recommended that you closely examine this guide for references to eligible uses or limitations on use

Should I submit my request to both my U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators?

Yes. It is strongly recommended that you submit your request to all of your federal representatives.

How much should I request?

It depends on the account from which you are requesting funds. You should not request more funds than you need or that can be realistically spent in the Fiscal Year for which you receive the funds. While you should request the amount that can be expended in the upcoming Fiscal Year that you need, please remember that projects are rarely funded fully due to budgetary restraints.

What if I do not know the appropriate Account or Agency for my project request?

This guide has been prepared to outline information on available accounts. Requestors should use this guide to identify the appropriate account that meets the needs of your project or organization. Please reach out to our office if you need additional information.

If my project is funded, will I receive the full amount I request?

There is no guarantee that an approved Community Project Funding request will be funded at the requested level. This is mostly due to budgetary restraints. Please keep this in mind when requesting support for your project.

Do I need letters of support?

Yes. The more community support for a project, the better. As listed above, letters of support from local, municipal, and state elected officials and stakeholders, as well as editorials and articles in local newspapers on the importance and necessity of the project are all important.

What should I expect after submitting an application?

Following the March 12 submission deadline, our office will review all applications carefully to ensure they meet the requirements and then determine which 15 projects to select. There is no additional action needed by applicants after submitting the project. We will reach back out to applicants if we have any questions or need additional information. Unfortunately, due to the volume of applicants, we do not have time to meet with every applicant.

Prior to March 31, our office will notify applicants whether they have been selected. We welcome an opportunity to speak with projects that are not selected about other potential grant funding opportunities that we can be helpful with at the federal level.

If selected by Congressman Smith, how long does it take to know if you will receive funding?

In order for projects selected by Congressman Smith to receive funding, they must be included in the House Appropriations Committee appropriations bills and then signed into law. The House Appropriations Committee generally releases the appropriations bills in late Spring or early Summer (April – June).

The House and the Senate then have to come to an agreement on the appropriations bills. This is a very uncertain process that has historically not completed until December or even later. There is also always a chance that no agreement is reached between the House and Senate on government funding legislation, which would drastically decrease the chances of the CPFs being signed into law.

If my Community Project Funding request is granted, what is the process for getting the assistance and how quickly will I receive it?

In general, recipients of Community Project Funding will be contacted by the appropriate agency or office that oversees the account from which your project received funding. This cannot happen until the appropriations bill in which your project was listed is signed into law. The timing varies between departments and agencies – some may start the process within several weeks, others may take several months after the bill's enactment into law.

In most cases, you will have to complete and submit a grant application outlining the project's goals, cost estimates and other requirements. You will work with a program or contract officer to complete these steps; they may have questions or additional requirements that could affect the timing of the obligations or outlay of funding to your organization.

The process of accessing funding and the time it takes to complete the necessary steps surprises many recipients who expect the money to be provided immediately.

Please be sure to take this into account when submitting a request.

Can I depend on receiving Community Project Funding for the same project more than once?

Generally, no. Most successful requests are one-time infusions of funding, generally used to launch a project or partially contribute towards the total cost of a project.

Given the limitations on the appropriations process for Community Project Funding, there is no guarantee that Congress will support a project for more than one year. However, you should discuss the needs of your project with your Congressional sponsor(s) if you believe that federal support will be needed beyond a single fiscal year.

Eligible Account Information

Per guidelines set by the House Appropriations Committee, only certain accounts within federal agencies will be eligible for Community Project Funding request.

Please review this information carefully. For FY 2024, several Subcommittees are ***no longer accepting*** CPF requests (Labor-HHS-Ed; Financial Services and General Government (SBA); and Defense) and most Subcommittees have made substantive changes since last cycle.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- Environmental Protection Agency

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

- Department of Justice
- Department of Commerce
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Subcommittee on Homeland Security

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Subcommittee on Energy and Water

- Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Reclamation

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

- Department of Transportation
- Department of Housing and Urban Development

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies

- U.S. Department of Agriculture

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

The Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies will accept project requests only in the following account:

- Environmental Protection Agency
 - State and Tribal Assistance Grants for certain water infrastructure projects.

The subcommittee will not accept project requests in any other account. Further eligibility information for each account is below.

Environmental Protection Agency –

1. State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

These grants fund local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. These projects include construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Similar to past practice, the Committee will be limiting STAG infrastructure grants only to projects that are publicly owned or owned by a non-profit entity and that are otherwise eligible for the funding from that state's Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs.

Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for infrastructure grants, even if they are otherwise eligible for assistance under a SRF program. The Committee will look favorably upon requests for projects that are listed on a state's most recent Intended Use Plan.

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant. For example, a \$1 million project could receive a maximum of \$800,000 from the Federal government, with the remaining \$200,000 the responsibility of the grantee. In almost all cases, other federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20% cost share. Ability to fund the 20% cost share is required before EPA can award a STAG grant. Please note that only the non-federal portion of assistance provided by a SRF can be applied towards a project's matching requirement.

STAG projects have very specific eligibility requirements, and the Committee will not consider projects that do not meet those requirements. For examples of project types that are ineligible or eligible for STAG grant funding please view the examples provided by the Committee [here](#).

Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Is this a Clean Water SRF project or a Drinking Water SRF project?

- ii. Does the project have (or expects to have within 12 months) its 20 percent matching fund requirement?
- iii. Is the project on your state's most recently finalized Clean Water/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan?

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies will accept community project funding requests in the following accounts:

- Department of Justice –
 - Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
 - COPS Technology and Equipment
- Department of Commerce –
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Coastal Zone Management
 - National Institute of Standards and Technology; Scientific and Technical Research and Services
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration—
 - Safety, Security and Mission Services

Further details about eligibility for each account is below.

Department of Justice –

1. State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance—Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)

Byrne Justice projects assist state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to enforce laws, address violent crime, increase prosecutions, improve the criminal justice system (including the correctional system), provide victims' services, and other related activities. Funding must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, the Office of Justice Programs' mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program, section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

In general, the purchase of vehicles and construction projects are not allowed under this funding. In addition, the House Appropriations Committee will not support the use of Byrne Justice Community Project Funding for the following:

- Initiatives that involve the distribution of drug paraphernalia.
- Initiatives that undermine the 2nd Amendment or infringe upon rights guaranteed by the Constitution without due process of law.
- Initiatives that appear to be anti-law enforcement or unrelated to criminal justice.
- Larger projects for the construction or renovation of penal or correctional institutions that will exceed the capability of single-year funding

In the event of limited funding, the House Appropriations Committee will prioritize projects focused on improving the effectiveness of law enforcement, increasing officer safety, curbing the opioid crisis, and other strategic priorities.

Projects with non-profit recipients may be eligible, so long as the purpose is to carry out work that closely aligns with the purposes of the Byrne JAG program. Such projects will be closely examined.

Below are the links to the Department’s guidance and frequently asked questions regarding the Byrne-JAG program, which may help guide you in gauging the eligibility of a proposed Byrne project:

- <https://bjaojp.gov/program/jag/overview>
- <https://bjaojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jag-faqs.pdf>

2. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) – Technology and Equipment

COPS Technology and Equipment projects support state, local, and Tribal law enforcement efforts to develop and procure the technology and equipment needed to respond more quickly and effectively, improve officer safety, increase transparency and enhance community relations.

Funding must be aligned with the purposes of section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)). As such, the House Appropriations Committee will consider projects to develop and/or acquire technologies and equipment, including interoperable communications technologies, modernized criminal record technology, and forensic technology, to assist State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies, including by reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime and training law enforcement officers to use such technologies.

Eligible recipients for COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding are State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies.

Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use of COPS Technology and Equipment Community Project Funding.

Department of Commerce –

1. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Coastal Zone Management

Community project funding for NOAA will only be considered for Coastal Zone management projects. These projects support the protection, restoration, and reasonable development of our nation’s diverse coastal communities and resources. Funding must be for activities consistent with, and supportive of, NOAA’s mission and aligned with one or more of the purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

Coastal Zone Management projects are subject to any applicable cost-share required by law under the Coastal Zone Management Program.

2. NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS)

Funding must be for activities consistent with and supportive of NIST’s mission and aligned with one or more of the functions and activities described in section 272 of title 15, United State Code. These are for projects that support standards-related research and technology development.

Funding for building construction or renovation projects is not an eligible use of NIST Scientific and Technical Research Community Project Funding.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) –

1. NASA Safety, Security, and Mission Services

Funding must be for activities advancing the purposes described in section 20102 of title 51, United States Code. Projects should focus on science, education, research, and technology development related to NASA’s mission.

Funding for building construction, renovation, or medical research will not be considered for community project funding.

Homeland Security

The Subcommittee on Homeland Security will accept Community Project Funding requests for only the following Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Assistance accounts:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
- Emergency Operations Center Grants

The Subcommittee will not accept project requests for any other account.

Department of Homeland Security – FEMA

1. Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Projects

FEMA’s PDM grants assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments with planning and implementing sustainable, cost-effective measures to provide long-term, permanent risk reduction to individuals and property from future natural hazards, such as floods and wildfires, while reducing reliance on federal funding for future disasters.

For PDM grant requests, the database includes specific eligibility questions to ensure the proposed project meets FEMA’s requirements as detailed in the most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO). The subcommittee encourages offices to consult with their [State Hazard Mitigation Officers](#) when answering the questions in the database.

Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent [Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) grant program will be considered for funding, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements, as applicable.

For any PDM projects designated for funding in the FY 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients). Therefore, all project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate state agency affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Please pay careful attention to FEMA’s eligibility requirements. Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Is the proposed project eligible under the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the PDM grant program?

- ii. Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required non-federal cost share (25% of total eligible activity costs, or 10% for small, impoverished communities), as detailed in the NOFO?
- iii. If less than the requested amount is provided as the federal share, would additional state, local, or other eligible funding sources be available to support the project?
- iv. Can the requesting jurisdiction provide a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness, which is defined by FEMA as having a BCA of 1.0 or greater? A non-FEMA BCA methodology may only be used if preapproved by FEMA in writing.
- v. Consistent with the NOFO for PDM grants, is the proposed activity consistent with the goals and objectives in both the state or tribal hazard mitigation plan (44 CFR Part 201) and the local hazard mitigation plan of the jurisdiction in which the project is located?
- vi. If so, what is the FEMA approval date and when will the plan expire?
- vii. Describe how the proposed activity expands mitigation capacity rather than repair and maintenance of existing capacity.
- viii. How will the project provide long-term, permanent risk-reduction, as opposed to simply supporting Short-term, temporary emergency protective measures?
- ix. Can the recipient describe how the activity supports the needs of people disproportionately at risk of harmful impacts of natural disasters?
- x. Does the recipient specifically encourage the adoption and enforcement of the latest disaster resistant building codes?

2. Emergency Operations Center Grant Program

FEMA’s EOC grants improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. According to the National Fire Protection Association, an EOC is defined as a “facility or capability from which direction and control is exercised in an emergency. This type of center or capability is designated to ensure that the capacity exists for leadership to direct and control operations from a centralized facility or capability in the event of an emergency.”

Similar to CPF requests for PDM grants, the database includes specific eligibility questions for EOC grants to ensure the proposed project meets FEMA’s requirements as detailed in the most recent [NOFO](#).

For any EOC projects designated for funding in the FY 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective State or Territorial Administrative Agency, or Tribal government, must submit an application to FEMA and serve as the administrative agent for the grant on behalf of the entities responsible for the project (grant subrecipients).

Please pay careful attention to FEMA’s eligibility requirements. Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Is the requesting jurisdiction a state, Indian tribal government, or local government as defined by section 102 or 602 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5122, 5195a?
- ii. Is the proposed project eligible under the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program? [Link above.](#)
- iii. Can the requesting jurisdiction provide the required 25 percent non-federal cost share?
- iv. Is the requestor in a position to enhance their emergency management capabilities and address their Emergency Operations Center needs?

Energy and Water

The Subcommittee will only consider Community Project Funding requests in the following accounts:

- Corps of Engineers (Investigations, Construction, Mississippi River and Tributaries, and Operation and Maintenance).
- Bureau of Reclamation (Water and Related Resources)

Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation Projects –

Only authorized projects will be considered for funding. A Community Project Funding request is only necessary to request an increment of funding or scope above and beyond the President’s budget request.

All requests for the Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) accounts listed above should reflect a funding amount that can be realistically utilized in FY24. This is referred to as the project’s “capability” for FY24. All projects will be sent to the relevant agency for technical assistance, including regarding project capability.

For the Corps, the Subcommittee may provide funding for a very limited number of new start projects, if any, in the Investigations, Construction, and Mississippi River and Tributaries accounts. While requests for new starts in these accounts will be accepted, please consider this limitation when making requests.

For the Corps, the Subcommittee may provide funding for a limited number of Environmental Infrastructure and Continuing Authorities Program projects, if any, in the Construction account. While requests for specific projects will be accepted, please consider this limitation when making requests.

Projects authorized only under sections 4007, 4009(a), and 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–322) will not be accepted.

Please locate your authorized Corps or Reclamation project and use the official project name as it appears in the list and include that on your request form. Once you locate the name of your project, you also need to provide the Public Law and section of the law that authorizes your project and include that on your request form. (example: P.L. 110–114, Section 1401).

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

The Subcommittee will only consider Community Project Funding requests in the following accounts:

- Department of Transportation
 - Highway Infrastructure Projects
 - Transit Infrastructure Projects
 - Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
 - Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements
 - Port Infrastructure Development Program
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
 - Economic Development Initiative

Department of Transportation –

1. Highway Infrastructure Projects

Highway Infrastructure Projects are capital projects eligible under title 23 of the United States Code. Eligible projects are described under Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code, as amended by title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Tribal and territorial capital projects authorized under Chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible.

All projects must be:

- Capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a capital project.
- Supported by the state or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Administered by public entities or Tribal entities.

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and activities required under sections 134 and 135 of title 23, United States Code.

Applicants should be aware that Highway Infrastructure Projects have a non-Federal cost share calculated on a sliding scale. The [cost-share requirements](#) are defined in statute and vary based on activity, location, and other factors.

Additionally, most projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. Potential

funding recipients are strongly encouraged to reach out to their state departments of transportation to determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?
- ii. Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the environmental review and NEPA category of action (if applicable)?
- iii. . Type of project eligible under 23 USC 133(b) (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program); 23 USC 201 (Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Programs); 23 USC 202 (Tribal Transportation Program); or 23 USC 165 (Territorial and Puerto Rico Highway Program).
- iv. Where is the project in the construction process? Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, Right of Way, Capital purchase or lease (including bus purchases), Construction, and Other (please specify).
- v. Was the project on a State, tribal or territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or a metropolitan transportation improvement plan (MTIP) as of 12/31/2021? If yes, please provide a link to the plan
- vi. Please provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan (ex. North Carolina STIP, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council TIP) the ID number comes from

2. Transit Infrastructure Projects

Transit Infrastructure Projects are public transportation capital projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code. Eligible capital projects are described under section 5302(4) of title 49, United States Code

All projects must be:

- Transit capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a transit capital project.
- Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Administered by public entities or Tribal entities

Public transportation or transit is defined in section 5302(15) and (22) of title 49, United States Code, as regular, continuing shared-ride surface transportation that is open to the general public or open to a segment of the general public defined by age, disability, or low income, and does not include intercity passenger rail transportation, intercity bus service, charter bus service, school bus service, sightseeing service, courtesy shuttle service for patrons of one or more specific establishments, or intra-terminal or intra-facility shuttle services

The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include general operating expenses, and activities authorized under sections 5303, 5304, and 5305 of title 49, United States Code.

The Subcommittee will continue to treat the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program as programmatic requests and will not fund CIG projects under Community Project Funding. Any projects for which the sponsor is seeking or will seek a CIG grant will not be considered.

Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction, operations, and maintenance? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?
- ii. Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the environmental review and NEPA category of action (if applicable)?
- iii. Where is the project in the construction process? Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, Right of Way, Capital purchase or lease (including bus purchases), Construction, and Other (please specify).
- iv. Was the project on a State, tribal or territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or a metropolitan transportation improvement plan (MTIP) as of 12/31/2021? If yes, please provide a link to the plan
- v. Please provide the STIP or TIP ID Number and specify which plan (ex. North Carolina STIP, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council TIP) the ID number comes from

3. Airport Improvement Program

AIP community project requests may be used for enhancing airport safety, capacity, and security, and mitigating environmental concerns.

All projects must be:

- AIP eligible in accordance with sections 47101 to 47175 of title 49, United States Code, and [FAA policy and guidance](#).
- Included in the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).
- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials.
- Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor.

Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The potential grantee should reach out to FAA Regional District Offices to ensure that projects will be in compliance with these mandates.

For large and medium primary hub airports, the grant covers 75 percent of eligible costs (or 80 percent for noise program implementation). For small primary, reliever, and general aviation airports, the grant covers a range of 90-95 percent of eligible costs, based on statutory requirements. Specific cost share requirements should be understood by the grantee, and verified by the FAA Regional District Office, along with other requirements to receive FAA funding.

Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the environmental review and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) category of action (if applicable)?
- ii. Is the project [AIP-eligible](#)?
- iii. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds for the required cost-share and committed for the forecasted operations and maintenance costs? What is the source and amount of those funds?
- iv. Has the airport submitted a grant application for this same project to FAA?
- v. Are there any stakeholders - such as residents that live near the airport, state or local officials, state department of transportation officials - that oppose the project?

4. Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements

Rail infrastructure projects are capital projects eligible under the CRISI program authorized in section 22907 of title 49, United States Code. CRISI provides grants to assist in financing the cost of improving passenger and freight rail transportation systems. All projects must be:

- Rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project;
- Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and
- Sponsored by public entities or Tribal entities.

This is a new Community Project Funding account for Fiscal Year 2024. The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities.

Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds for the required cost-share and committed for the forecasted operations and maintenance costs? What is the source and amount of those funds?
- ii. Is the project on a state rail plan as of 12/31/2022? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.
- iii. Is the project included in a grade crossing action plan? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.

5. Port Infrastructure Development Program

Port Infrastructure Development Program projects are projects eligible under Section 54301 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by title XXXV of division C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

The Subcommittee will only fund projects that meet eligibility criteria and will be administered by eligible applicants, as described by statute. As a reminder, funding may not be directed to for-profit recipients. Due to the limited amount of total CPF funding, priority will be given to projects at small inland river and coastal ports and terminals, as described in 46 U.S.C. 54301(b), and to discrete, smaller-scale projects at larger ports and intermodal connections to ports.

This program has a statutory non-Federal matching requirement, with potential exceptions for small and rural area ports. Applicants should review 46 USC sections 54301(a)(8) and 54301(b) for more information on these cost-share requirements before submitting requests for funding. Note that recipients are also required to comply with reviews and audits from the Department of Transportation.

Additionally, these projects may be subject to various Federal requirements such as Buy America and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Committee strongly encourages potential funding recipients to reach out to their local port authorities and the Maritime Administration’s [Gateway Offices](#) to help determine the eligibility and viability of projects.

Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Is the project at a small port, as described under 46 USC 54301(b)?
- ii. Is the project in a rural area, as described under 46 USC 54301(a)(12) – an area that is outside of a Census-designated urbanized area?
- iii. Does the project have other public (state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements? If so, what is the source and amount of those funds?

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) –

1. Economic Development Initiative

EDI community project requests may be used for economic and community development activities. Project requests for the FY24 Economic Development Initiative program must be eligible under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), 5305(a)(5); which are as follows—but limited to—land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation; blight removal; and construction and capital improvements of public facilities, except for “buildings used for the general conduct of government.” Programmatic and operational expenses are not eligible.

5305(a)(1) – the acquisition of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein) which is (A) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating, undeveloped, or inappropriately developed from the standpoint of sound community development and growth; (B) appropriate for rehabilitation or conservation activities; (C) appropriate for the preservation or restoration of historic sites, the beautification of urban land, the conservation of open spaces, natural resources, and scenic areas, the provision of recreational opportunities, or the guidance of urban development; (D) to be used for the provision of public works, facilities, and improvements eligible for assistance under this chapter; or (E) to be used for other public purposes;

5305(a)(2) – the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements;

5305(a)(4) – clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation (including rehabilitation which promotes energy efficiency) of buildings and improvements (including interim assistance, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation, of privately owned properties, and including the renovation of closed school buildings);

5305(a)(5) – special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons;

Given that projects must meet these authorized purposes of the CDBG program, the Committee expects to fund the following types of projects and other similar projects:

- Public or non-profit housing rehabilitation, housing development financing, residential conversions, and neighborhood revitalization projects, which would increase housing supply and/or improve housing affordability in the local community;
- Projects with a clear economic development benefit, such as workforce training centers and manufacturing incubators;
- Water or sewer infrastructure projects, which are not otherwise eligible to be funded as CPFs in EPA STAG (Interior bill) or Rural Water and Waste (Agriculture bill);
- Local road infrastructure, which is not otherwise eligible as a CPF in Highways (in this bill);
- Streetscape improvements;
- Projects that meet a compelling local need consistent with the statutory purposes. For example, food banks in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, youth and senior centers, and multipurpose community centers.

The following types of projects are not eligible for CPF funding:

- Museums, commemoratives, memorials;

- Swimming pools, water parks, golf courses;
- Healthcare facilities;
- Venues strictly for entertainment purposes – e.g., theaters and performing arts venues.

Reminder on Environmental Review Requirements: EDI projects, like all projects funded by HUD, are subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), HUD’s NEPA-implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 50 or 24 CFR Part 58, and all applicable federal environmental and historic preservation laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. An environmental review must be completed before HUD funds and new commitments of non-HUD funds can be used on a project (24 CFR 58.22).

EDI projects are not eligible for the reimbursement of expenses for soft costs (planning, administrative) incurred prior to the completion of a grant agreement between HUD and the grantee; a grant agreement and a completed environmental review are necessary for reimbursement of hard costs (construction activities).

Questions and information that should be provided in the request form or follow-up materials, and that will be used as criteria for project selection, include:

- i. Does the project require an environmental review? If so, what is the status and/or outcome of the environmental review and NEPA category of action (if applicable)?
- ii. Is the project primarily a service, new construction, rehabilitation, land or site acquisition, planning, or economic development project?
- iii. Who are the community partners participating in this project? Have local community development organizations with prior experience with HUD programs been consulted?
- iv. Is this project consistent with the primary objective of the community development program? Please describe who the project is intended to benefit.

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

The Subcommittee will accept Community Project Funding requests in three accounts under the U.S. Department of Agriculture as noted below.

- Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities (ARS B&F)
- Rural Development, Rural Housing Service, Rural Community Facility Grants
- Rural Utilities Service, ReConnect Grants
- Rural Utilities Service, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
- Rural Utilities Service, Water and Waste Grants
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

The subcommittee will not accept Community Project Funding requests in any other account. All projects must comply with statutory and regulatory requirements, including cost share.

To ensure your projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, you must consult with your respective State Rural Development or State Conservation office which can be found here:

- Rural Development: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>
- Natural Resources Conservation Services: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservationbasics/conservation-by-state/state-offices>

Department of Agriculture –

1. Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture. Requests must be for ARS-owned or operated facilities.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, as well as details on the modernization and why it is critical in carrying out the research.

2. Community Facilities Grants

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: medical or dental clinics, healthcare facilities, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles.

Any project must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents).

Requests are also subject to cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully. Community Facilities grants cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility and non-federal cost share requirements. For fiscal year 2023, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about \$1.3 million.

3. ReConnect Program

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grant funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90% of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband.

Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms will be served in the area, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

Additionally, when submitting a request, applicants are reminded that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the non-federal cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xexPT>.

USDA's Rural Development office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2023, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly \$1.2 million.

4. Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programing.

All requests are subject to all the regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. The program requires a 15% match that cannot come from another federal source.

Competitive awards typically range from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 and the Committee will consider projects in this range. This a new account for the fiscal 2023 House process; in fiscal year 2022, the average Senate CPF in this account was \$359,000.

5. Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal; sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide details on the number of households and businesses served and details of the exact work to be completed.

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with population of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. The account has not been subject to CPFs in the previous years. Potential recipients will be required to provide a 25% non-federal cost share.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

6. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. Conservation Operations has four major program components: Conservation Technical Assistance, Soil Survey, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting, and Plant Materials Centers. Examples of specific objectives include reduce soil erosion, improve soil health, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce

damage caused by floods and other natural disasters. Due to the newness of the urban agriculture program, the subcommittee will not consider such proposals this year as part of CPFs in Conservation Operations.

Members are strongly encouraged to provide details on the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work. Members should also describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

This is a new account for the fiscal year 2023 House process; in fiscal year 2022, the average Senate CPF in this account was \$1.1 million. The Committee will consider higher project requests for fiscal year 2023. However, projects requesting significantly more than that average may be more difficult to accommodate and will depend on program demand and other variables. Any future potential project caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.